

OKYEAME

January 4, 2007

American Embassy,
Accra



It's Another Year New....

"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1. **ANCIENT NEW YEARS**

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring). The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary. The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison. The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

THE CHURCH'S VIEW OF NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations. During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment. The Tournament of Roses Parade dates back to 1886. In that year, members of the Valley Hunt Club decorated their carriages with flowers. It celebrated the ripening of the orange crop in California. Although the Rose Bowl football game was first played as a part of the Tournament of Roses in 1902, it was replaced by Roman chariot races the following year. In 1916, the football

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CLO Office Hours

Mon-Thurs
8am-4pm

Fri
8:00 am-12:00pm

If you have news, classified, suggestions, letters, restaurant reviews etc. for the Okyeame, please write to the Editor, Mikelles Antoine at:

*accraokyeame@yahoo.com
Deadline Monday 5pm*

Please let us know what you would like to see in the Okyeame. Your suggestions, criticism and story ideas are most welcome!

The Okyeame is published weekly by the United States Mission, Accra. It is for the use of all Mission employees and their families. Post activities and items of general interest are included in this newsletter. Please send news items, suggestions and classified ads to accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Submission deadline is COB Monday of publication week. Classified ads may be placed by members of the Mission or members of other foreign missions stationed in Ghana. Ads will be run for three weeks and can be renewed. If an item is sold before the three weeks are up, please notify accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Ads and submissions are accepted based on appropriateness and relevance to the Embassy community. Okyeame is a Twi word meaning linguist, or chief's spokesperson.



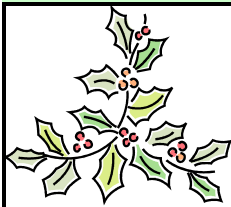
Getting the Gist

By Jennifer Allison

It would happen unexpectedly. I might be shopping with friends, relaxing in a café, or trying to mingle at a party when all of a sudden I couldn't understand anything anyone was saying. One minute I would be laughing at a joke, and the next I was a child yearning to be let into the mysterious conversation swirling around me. If I caught the gist of a sentence I would nod all too eagerly, hoping to avoid looks of sympathy or a patronizing request to "slow down for Jennifer." I had been living in a small coastal city in Denmark on a two-year assignment as a corporate writer. After six months in Aarhus the local language remained a mystery to me. The Danish language involves guttural vowel sounds and gymnastics of the tongue that are nearly impossible for non-native speakers to master. Considering that more people live in New York City than speak the tongue-twisting Scandinavian lingo, there was little justification for me to become fluent. I would probably never use it once I returned home. Besides, all Danes study English in high school and are eager to practice it on the nearest American or Briton. Yet I was determined, even pigheaded, in my efforts to learn a second language. I felt I had to do my bit to disprove the stereotype that Americans are hopelessly monolingual. My mission was fortified at a business dinner with colleagues from France, Germany and Switzerland. During hors d'oeuvres, a Swiss colleague noticed that I kept requesting translations of French and German conversations. He remarked, "You Americans should realize English isn't the only language on this planet." This was just after he had asked if I would like some ice in my glass of Merlot, a stab at Americans' lack of wine sense. Perhaps I should have retorted by telling him about all the bilingual first- and second-generation immigrants in the United States. Instead I said, "Don't be so quick to judge. I'm learning Danish." The man burst into laughter. Apparently even the Swiss, who pick up languages as easily as silverware, can't understand the Danes. But I was determined to do my small part to show people like him that Americans can learn foreign languages, too.

To jumpstart the process, I asked my co-workers and friends to speak to me only in Danish. As a result, I entered a wasteland of misunderstanding. At the company cafeteria I ended up with a plate of liver pâté instead of the slice of cheese pizza I thought I ordered. One afternoon I spent nearly an hour searching my office suite for a mailbox before my officemate pointed out that the white box on the wall was clearly marked with "ude," for outgoing mail. I hired a tutor and bought four dictionaries, three lesson books, and two tapes, all of which had titles I couldn't read. My husband watched patiently while I spent evenings hanging handmade signs around the apartment and uttering the names of objects with the delight of a two-year-old: "bord" for table; "stol" for chair; "lys" for light. I went to bed gleefully curling my tongue against my front teeth, trying to combine the guttural 'ø' with the soft 'd' sound, as in "brød," for bread. The games seemed to pay off. I began to interpret some Danish sentences with relative clarity. When that happened, adrenaline flowed through me and I felt as if I'd finally solved the Rubik's cube of language. Never mind that the meaning was usually nothing more than "Would you like cookies with your coffee?" or "The cereal is in the third aisle next to housewares." However, after several months of practicing on unsuspecting bank clerks and bus drivers, the novelty wore thin. I started to loathe the language's quirks and complexities. I was stymied by Danes' tendency to fuse words into monstrosities like "halvtredsindstyvende" for fiftieth, and by pronouns like "I" (pronounced e), which means "you collectively." My husband shook his head in empathy when I asked a waitress for a napkin and she handed me a fork. "Honey, take it easy on yourself," he suggested. "Why put yourself through this agony when all Danes speak English and we'll be leaving in a year?" He shrugged knowingly when I struggled for ten minutes to request stamps at the post office only to have the cashier smile and say in a proper British accent, "What can I do for you?" My Danish tutor, Laila, remained patient. Once a week she came to the apartment carrying a bag of buttery rolls and introduced me to yet more impossible phonetics of Danish. She watched my roller-coaster learning curve; one moment I'd speak almost effortlessly in Danish and the next I'd struggle to catch a moment of comprehension. Then I hit a wall. My mind simply could not absorb another foreign word and my gut would not endure one more guttural ø. After a particularly harrowing lesson on grammar, I decided to throw in the towel. I abandoned Laila's lessons and the books and tapes (well, okay, at least one of the cassettes ended up under the heel of my shoe). "You're right," I told my husband. "It isn't worth the torture. I can get by with English." We laughed with relief and toasted to the virtues of our mother tongue as a global language. A few days later I interviewed a man who spoke four languages. I listened in awe as he switched comfortably between Polish, German, French and English. His multilingual skills made my own abandoned project seem like child's play. I called Laila. She returned toting rolls and we resumed our lessons. I got a second wind and soon could understand nearly every word in the morning cartoon shows. I had never before listened so closely to a talking cow. I began to speak up in meetings at work and to compose e-mails "på dansk." Not only did I join conversations at parties, but I even managed to belt out a few Danish drinking songs. I had finally acquired a second language with only six months left in Aarhus. Now that we've returned to the United States, I've rarely had the chance to use my new language skills. Yet I'm glad I persisted. Learning a second language turned out to be one of those many things about living abroad that was as mind-expanding as it was difficult. In the end there's great joy in knowing the meaning of *tosproget Amerikaner* - bilingual American.

© 2002 by Jennifer Allison. All rights reserved. Jennifer Allison is a freelance writer based in Rochester, New York. She worked as a corporate journalist in Denmark for two years and continues to travel around the world for work and for pleasure. She can be reached at ink-pubs@aol.com.



It's a New Year History *continues from page 1.*

game returned as the sports centerpiece of the festival. The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth. Although the early Christians denounced the practice as pagan, the popularity of the baby as a symbol of rebirth forced the Church to reevaluate its position. The Church finally allowed its members to celebrate the new year with a baby, which was to symbolize the birth of the baby Jesus. The use of an image of a baby with a New Years banner as a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to early America by the Germans. They had used the effigy since the fourteenth century.

FOR LUCK IN THE NEW YEAR

Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man. Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune. Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The hog, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

AULD LANG SYNE

The song, "Auld Lang Syne," playing in the background, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days." The lyrics can be found here.

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Source: <http://wilstar.com/holidays/newyear.htm>





Acne is a skin condition which has plugged pores (blackheads and whiteheads), inflamed pimples (pustules), and deeper lumps (nodules). Acne occurs on the face, as well as the neck, chest, back, shoulders, and upper arms. Although most teenagers get some form of acne, adults in their 20's, 30's, 40's, or even older, can develop acne. Often, acne clears up after several years, even without treatment. Acne can be disfiguring and upsetting to the patient. Untreated acne can leave permanent scars; these may be treated by your dermatologist in the future. To



avoid acne scarring, treating acne is important.

Types of Acne and How Acne Forms Acne is not caused by dirt. Testosterone, a hormone which is present in both males and females, increases during adolescence (puberty). It stimulates the sebaceous glands of the skin to enlarge, produce oil, and plug the pores. Whiteheads (closed comedones), blackheads (open comedones), and pimples (pustules) are present in teenage acne. Early acne occurs before the first period and is called prepubertal acne. When acne is severe and forms deep "pus-filled" lumps, it is called cystic acne. This may be more common in males. Adult acne develops later in life and may be related to hormones, childbirth, menopause, or stopping the pill. Adult women may be treated at the period and at ovulation when acne is especially severe, or throughout the entire cycle. Adult acne is not rosacea, a disease in which blackheads and whiteheads do not occur.

Cleansing Acne has nothing to do with not washing your face. However, it is best to wash your face with a mild cleanser and warm water daily. Washing too often or too vigorously may actually make your acne worse.

Diet Acne is not caused by foods. However, if certain foods seem to make your acne worse, try to avoid them.

Cosmetics Wear as little cosmetics as possible. Oil-free, water-based moisturizers and make-up should be used. Choose products that are "non-comedogenic" (should not cause whiteheads or blackheads) or "non-acnegenic" (should not cause acne). Remove your cosmetics every night with mild soap or gentle cleanser and water. A flesh-tinted acne lotion containing acne medications can safely hide blemishes. Loose powder in combination with an oil-free foundation is also good for cover-up. Shield your face when applying sprays and gels on your hair.

Treatment Control of acne is an ongoing process. All acne treatments work by preventing new acne breakouts. Existing blemishes must heal on their own, and therefore, improvement takes time. If your acne has not improved within two to three months, your treatment may need to be changed. The treatment your dermatologist recommends will vary according to the type of acne. Occasionally, an acne-like rash can be due to another cause such as make-up or lotions, or from oral medication. It is important to help your dermatologist by providing an updated history of what you are using on your skin or taking internally.

Many non-prescription acne lotions and creams help mild cases of acne. However, many will also make your skin dry. Follow instructions carefully.

Mild acne vulgaris: Topicals Your dermatologist may prescribe topical creams, gels, or lotions with vitamin A acid-like drugs, benzoyl peroxide, or antibiotics to help unblock the pores and reduce bacteria. These products may cause some drying and peeling. Your dermatologist will advise you about correct usage and how to handle side effects. Before starting any medication, even topical medications, inform your doctor if you are pregnant or nursing, or if you are trying to get pregnant.

Special Treatments

Acne surgery may be used by your dermatologist to remove blackheads and whiteheads. Do not pick, scratch, pop, or squeeze pimples yourself. When the pimples are squeezed, more redness, swelling, inflammation, and scarring may result. Microdermabrasion may be used to remove the upper layers of the skin improving irregularities in the surface, contour, and generating new skin.

Light chemical peels with salicylic acid or glycolic acid help to unblock the pores, open the blackheads and whiteheads, and stimulate new skin growth. Injections of corticosteroids may be used for treating large red bumps (nodules). This may help them go away quickly.

Oral Antibiotics taken by mouth such as tetracycline, doxycycline, minocycline, or erythromycin are often prescribed.

Birth Control Pills Birth control pills may significantly improve acne, and may be used specifically for the treatment of acne. It is also important to know that oral antibiotics may decrease the effectiveness of birth control pills. This is uncommon, but possible, especially if you notice break-through bleeding. As a precautionary measure use a second form of birth control.

Moderate acne: Other Treatments In cases of unresponsive or severe acne, isotretinoin may be used. Patients using isotretinoin must understand the side effects of this drug. Monitoring with frequent follow-up visits is necessary. Pregnancy must be prevented while taking the medication, since the drug causes birth defects. Women may also use female hormones or medications that decrease the effects of male hormones to help their acne. Photodynamic therapy using the blue wavelength of light can be helpful in treating acne as well. Your dermatologist will evaluate you and suggest the appropriate treatment regimes considering your age, sex, and the type of acne you have.

Treatment of Acne Scarring The dermatologist can treat acne scars by a variety of methods. Skin resurfacing with laser, dermabrasion, chemical peels, or electrosurgery can flatten depressed scars. Soft tissue elevation with collagen or fat-filling products can elevate scars. Scar revision with a microexcision and the punch grafting technique can correct pitted scars, and combinations of these dermatologic surgical treatments can make noticeable differences in appearance.

Proper Care is Necessary No matter what special treatments your dermatologist may use, remember that you must continue proper skin care. Acne is not curable, but it is controllable; proper treatment helps you to feel and look better and may prevent scars.

To learn more about acne and acne treatments see your dermatologist or log onto www.aad.org. Severe nodular acne. Ask your dermatologist for information. For additional information about Acne, please visit AcneNet. Copyright © American Academy of Dermatology Not for Reproduction or Distribution. From: <http://www.aad.org/public/Publications/pamphlets/Acne.htm>

AROUND TOWN

North American Women's Association (NAWA) promotes friendship among North American women, and between North American & Ghanaian women. NAWA fundraises for charitable organizations that support women and children in Ghana. Meetings are held on the **second Thursday of each month**, between September and May. Join us at **6:45pm** at the **Coconut Regency Hotel**. Look forward to meeting new friends, supporting worthy causes in Ghana and participating in cultural and social activities. The NAWA published book, *No More Worries*, can be found in stores throughout Ghana. Check the www.noworriesghana.com website or go to www.nawaghana.com. Call secretary Carol Pietryk at 0242 108273 (email: icpietryk@yahoo.ca) or president Monica Carr at 0243 680799 for further information. "You are welcome."

Ghana International Women's Club Formed in 1980 with the intention of establishing a strong bond of friendship among 'women of the world', and fostering a better understanding of one another's cultures. Members organize fundraising events and volunteer work. Monthly meetings every 2nd Wed at **Kohinoor Restaurant in Osu** at 9:30 am.

Ghana Bead Society Develop knowledge, appreciation, and interest in beads in Ghana, both from a traditional and contemporary point of view. Monthly meetings at the DuBois Center, East Cantonments; 4:30 pm, first Thursday of each month. Contact Trish Graham at 764-349 or e-mail: trish_graham@hotmail.com.

Alliance Française Provides French classes for children and adults, and hosts numerous cultural events. Located on Liberation Link Road, Airport Residential. Tel: 773-134.

American Chamber of Commerce promotes commercial, economic, educational and cultural ties between the U.S. and Ghana. Their regular luncheon meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month at La Palm from 12-2:30. Tel: 247-562, 024-251-605. E-mail: amchamgh@ghana.com; Website: www.amcham_africa.org. Located at Hse #C609/3 5th Crescent St, Asylum Down.

Scottish Country Dancing The Caledonian Society of Ghana: Scottish Country dancing is back. All are welcome to join in at the Grasscutters club, every Tuesday night from 7.30pm. For more information call 0244 069 169 or e mail caledonianghana@yahoo.co.uk
Accragio, a singing group open to expatriates and Ghanaians, is preparing its fall program and welcoming new singers. For more information, call Nate at 774-558. Rehearsals take

place every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. in Labone.

Energize yourself and reduce stress with **Hatha Yoga** at YMCA Mon-Wed-Friday, 5:30 pm - 7 pm. Contact Peace on 024-422-6079 or 775-348 ext. 4277.

The International Players The International Players is a local amateur dramatic group that performs publicly. Anyone interested in amateur theater is invited to participate. For information contact: Trish Graham at 764-349 or e-mail: trish_graham@hotmail.com.

Bunko is up and running here in Accra! Fast paced, easy to learn, no skill required, (**ladies only!**) dice game. We meet monthly at rotating houses. For more info or to sign up, email Kylie at edhrcir@hotmail.com.

Theater Mirrors. A local Ghanaian acting troupe, begun in 1986, whose members perform every Friday night at **Bywel Bar**, located across the street from Sotrec Grocery in Osu. Admission is free. 8 PM. The acting group is also available for private performances. Call 024-678956 for details.

Ghana National Theatre Monthly Symphony Program "Sunday at Five" held the last Sunday of every month **is now at Christ the King Parish Hall due to renovations.** Still at 5 pm, still a bargain at 20,000 cedis, 665-735 or 663-467.

Friends of Bill W. Meet Monday evenings 7-8 pm near the Cathedral in Adabraka. Contact Ludwin 020-2018540 or Lydia 024-611385.

Happy Hour Fridays at 5:30 pm an informal group meets for unwinding at the Labone Coffee Shop. All are welcome.

Hash House Harriers (Accra) The Hash House Harriers has been described as a '*drinking group with a running problem.*' However, non-drinkers and walkers are welcome. The Hash runs every Monday, with a 5:15 pm **sharp** departure. Location varies. Contact ac_crahhh@yahoo.com for details.

Hash House Harriers (Tema) is composed of Ghanaians and expats in and around the Tema area and welcome families with children. Every Thursday at 5:15 April thru October and 5:00 pm November thru March. Contact Frank Davis, at frank.davis@valcotema.com or call 020-201-1525 for information on directions to starting point.

Duplicate Bridge group meets every Tuesday night at 7:30. Any questions please contact Gerry Gray Thibodeau for information or to arrange a partner, 021-775-414. (evenings)
Pick-up Basketball Tuesday evenings (6-8 pm) at GIS. Everyone is invited to join the fun. For

additional information, please contact Ted Lawrence (tlawrence@usaid.gov) or Rob Clausen (rclausen@usaid.gov). They can also be reached by telephone at 228-440.

Pippa's Health and Fitness Center in Osu runs **Tumble Tots** on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30-11:45 am for 40,000 cedis a day. Toddlers can run around, play, and climb on the gym's tumble equipment and meet other toddlers in the area. Parents or nannies are welcome. Call 22 44 88 for more info.

Mom/Dad & Tots (3 and under) at British High Commission Grasscutters Return. Wednesdays 9:30-11:15 am.

Taekwondo at Pippa's Health and Fitness Center. Adults and kids are welcome. Learn from National Champion Master Stephen Yeboah. Call for registration: 22 44 88.

Frisky's International Film Buff Club views films Tuesdays 7pm. Call Ian at 0244 363017 or Katya at 024 329679 for directions or to receive a map by email.

Free Meditation each Wed at 6-7pm. Free pranic healing Wed. 10am-6pm. At the GMCKS Pranic Healing Center, 1st floor, Pyramid House, Ring Road central (Next to Alitalia). Website: www.pranichealing.org Phone: 0275089645 Mythili Raja Mohen

International Spouses Association of Ghana (ISAG) Are you a non-Ghanaian married to a Ghanaian? If yes, then come and meet others in a similar relationship. First Wednesday of every month at 5.30pm at Ghana International School film room. It's fellowship with some serious bits! For more information, contact Judd on 024-476-7063 or Nina on 024-477-8229 or email isag@ighmail.com

The Accra Tema Yacht Club (ATYC) is in Ada on the Volta River, 1½ hours from Accra, close to Manet Paradis Hotel. Races of catamarans and sail boats are held monthly. ATYC has 3 Lasers available for daily or hourly rental, a small bar and four chalets where members may stay overnight. **New members are welcome** as are day visitors for which a nominal daily charge is payable. Contact dmcallag@gmail.com -or- Duncan.macnicol@asc-gh.com

African American Association of Ghana (AAAG). General meetings held every third Saturday of the month. 2-4pm at the W.E.B. Dubois Center in Cantonments. For more info call 021-785438 or sankofaaaag@yahoo.com

Fit & Fun Gymnastics Club for children from 2 years and teenagers. Learn the basics of movement improve flexibility, balance and body awareness. Gymnastics helps them learn self discipline, patience and have more self confidence. Call 024 3515889 for info.

Community News and Events

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

A Brand New American Curriculum International School

Classes since September 6, 2006—grades pre K-11th grade

Limited enrollment ~ Small teacher to student ratio

Teachers from the United States

Fully Air-Conditioned Classrooms

Bus Service Available

For More Information and Tuition Rates go to www.AISaccra.org

Or Tel: 0277-549905



Member of Network of International Christian Schools since 2006

Leaving?

Can't take that wonderful dog with you but you want it to go to a good home? I am looking for one nice adult dog whose bark is worse than its bite.

One who is good with children but fiercely protective of it's environment.

Prefer Alsatian but would consider other breeds as well. Please contact Laurie 0277-549905 (2)

Experienced Housekeeper Available- Michael has 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ years experience working as a housekeeper / gardener for U.S. Embassy families and 12 years experience as a gardener for expats prior to housekeeping. He is extremely reliable, hardworking and an excellent housekeeper. Please call Diane at 0244331244 for a reference. (1)

BusyInternet - 5 years of quality internet service in Ghana

Movies@Liquid

Beginning Friday 15th December, movie lovers get to watch the latest blockbuster movies on big screen with surround sound effects at the Liquid Bar. Recline in our love seats and enjoy your favorite drinks, grilled sausages, pop corn and so much more. The ambience and comfort of our newly furnished bar creates the right atmosphere for your weekend entertainment. Catch the fever every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for a special treat....

Internet 4 Kids - Every Saturday 10:00am

Need a place for the kids to play at the weekend? Bring them to BusyInternet. We have a program where kids can play online with each other, surf some fun kids' sites and explore the internet supervised. Give your kids a head start in internet technology by enrolling them in our program

CLASSIFIEDS

The Okyeame is published weekly by the United States Mission, Accra. It is for the use of all Mission employees and their families. Post activities and items of general interest are included in this newsletter. Please send news items, and classified ads to accrao-kyeame@yahoo.com. **Classified ads may be placed by members of the Mission or members of other foreign missions stationed in Ghana.** Submission deadline is 5pm Monday of the publication week. Ads will run for 3 weeks and can be renewed. If an item is sold, please notify accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Send your classifieds to accraokyeame@yahoo.com.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Looking for a very experienced cook/housekeeper that can make a variety of western and African meals, appetizers, and desserts, know how to serve at dinner parties, and light housekeeping. contact Monique at 0244311944 (3)

Djemela is a young lady looking for employment as a **domestic help and cook**. She is hard-working, honest and trustworthy. Call Djemela directly at 0242-929757 or for references call 0244-311256. (3)

Do you need a **reliable and trustful person** to look after your house and perform different tasks? Joseph Alou, has over 17 years experience as guard, handyman and gardener in the Embassy of Former Yugoslavia. Refs. available. Contact either Joseph Alou on 024 67 40 815 or his former employer Mr. Anjelkovich on 024 43 74 020 (3)

Driver, "Man-Friday" available. Emmanuel has worked for me for nearly three years. He is a flawless driver - has not even scratched my car in that time. He does countless other tasks and does them all well, including running errands, washing and ironing (he does this very well), and taking care of my dogs. Call 0344-311-262 or email mschulman@usaid.gov (3)

Driver available - reliable, responsible, honest and safe. Isaac has worked for us for two years and we have trusted him to drive our new baby. We are returning to Australia mid-December and are keen to find him a new position. Call Isaac on 0243 455 367 or 021 780 380 for references.(3)

FOR SALE: BAMBOO FURNITURE SET. Never been used and will sell at COST. Includes: 3-cushion sofa, 2-cushion sofa, 4 chairs, 1 coffee table, 4 small side tables. All tables have covered glass and weaving under table-top.

Also includes Coordinating cushions and covers. For sale at: 1.6 million cedis. Please call: 0246 603016 or email: pjr1110@hotmail.com.

USAID/GHANA

is recruiting a Secretary to support the USAID/Ghana Contracting Office (CO). This is a full time position open to Ghanaian nationals. **Secretarial**: Manages the CO, screens visitors and telephone calls and either directs them to the Supervisor or provides response to the enquiries, maintains the Supervisor's calendar, handles incoming and outgoing mail, types in final form faxes, letters, cables reports, documents etc.

- **Contract Support**: Liaising with Supervisor/Strategic Objective Team Staff, and Controller staff, maintains, generates and provides the Contracting Officer with monthly management reports, which include Procurement Plans. Assists Supervisor with back-stopping of actions including work on purchase orders, during procurement cycle.
- Assists the CO with closeouts, distribution of awards, file maintenance.

Administrative: Oversees all logistics related to CO travel, including travel authorizations, advances, vouchers, coordinates hotel and travel arrangements with travel section. **Other**: Serves as back-up to the USAID Deputy Mission Director and serves as personal and confidential assistant to the USAID Mission Director when necessitated by the absence of the Director's Secretary.

Maintains files for all Contract Office open acquisition and assistance instruments, general correspondence, etc.

EDUCATION: Two years post secondary school training in Secretarial, Business Studies or related field.

EXPERIENCE: At least three years of progressively responsible experience in the secretarial field is required. **SKILLS**: Excellent computer skills in Microsoft Word, Excel and Power-point. Candidate must have excellent writing skills and ability to take initiative and work with minimum supervision. *Interested applicants should please apply to:* The Contracts Secretary Position USAID/GHANA P.O. Box 1630 Accra. **CLOSING DATE: January 6, 2007**

CLASSIFIEDS

The Okiyeame is published weekly by the United States Mission, Accra. It is for the use of all Mission employees and their families. Post activities and items of general interest are included in this newsletter. Please send news items, and classified ads to accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Classified ads may be placed by members of the Mission or members of other foreign missions stationed in Ghana. Submission deadline is 5pm Monday of the publication week. Ads will run for 3 weeks and can be renewed. If an item is sold, please notify accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Send your classifieds to accraokyeame@yahoo.com.

MISCELLAENOUS	VEHICLES FOR SALE	
URGENT. HOUSING. Diplomats looking for a good accommodation in Airport Res., Cantonment or East Legon. No agent please. Tel: 0242 266 713 (3)	Land Rover Discovery Series II 4x4 In good condition, service history available from Mechanical Lloyd. Model: TD (Turbo-Diesel) 5 Model Year: 2001 Guards on front and rear lights Front Grill guard Extra Set - Alloy rims (4) Land Rover Fridge Transmission: Manual 5 speed gearbox. 5-seater, 5-door, Epsom Green US\$ 25,000.00 ono Contact: Mr Adekoye Ademola 233 24 286 8156 Fax: +233 21 512 981 (3)	1998 Honda Civic 4 door sedan, 61700 miles, manual transmission. Excellent condition. Duty not paid. (Estimated at 15 million cedi) Price Reduced to \$5200. Please call Diane at 0244331244. (2)
For Sale: DISPOSABLE DIAPERS! 126 Kirkland (Costco) brand size 5 (27 lbs+) for US\$30. 144 Huggies brand size 6 (35 lbs+) for US\$39. Contact tnbabbel@yahoo.com , or 024-210-8043. (1)		2002 Dodge Caravan , fully equipped. Please call 0244 327 424.
For sale: Like new Harvard Foosball Table for sale. Has an electronic score keeper along with manual score keeper. Has no ware marks. Paid \$500 and used rarely. Yours for \$300 or best offer. Call 774-502 and ask for Jessica. Accept cedi (3)	1996 Daewoo Nexia saloon car. Automatic, driver airbag, power steering, electric windows. Reliable, durable and good run a round car. No Duty \$4000 OBO. Please call 020 813-6962 or 0246 584 384	For Sale: DSTV box and satellite dish for 3,100,000 cedis. Call Gail at 021-773-465 or 0244311944. (2)
For Sale: Yakima bike rack that will fit any car.. The rack will hold several bikes. Yakima are the most reliable racks money can buy. Price \$200. Call Natalie at 0244-331-102 or e-mail natalie_lorence@yahoo.com	For Sale: like new 2 gigabyte sony psp memory ,three sony psp games and a movie for sale madden 06, fightnight 3, etc. \$300 negotiate-able. 0208804684, 021912690 or email herbieokantey@yahoo.com . (2)	Volvo S40 2003 , black leather seats, AC, airbags, power steering, electric windows & doors, alarmed, fully loaded, low mileage, duty paid \$13,0000 Call 020 813-6962 or 0246 584 384
For sale, dishwasher soap for automatic machine. Bought at Costco in Canada before going on post, but no dishwasher machine in the house! This is like 2 or 3 years supply! 2 buckets Kirkland Signature Dishwasher Soap (6.80kg each) 1 bottle of Jet Dry (946ml) Selling at cost, 300 000 Cedis for the package Contact Gislain at 0244 329 718	Are you a quilter? Create a memory of Ghana using my adinkra symbol applique patterns to make a quilt, a wallhanging, or pillows. For pictures and price list: email Widdison@hotmail.com . Subject line: adinkra design patterns.	!GREAT FIND! Had lunch and dinner at a great new restaurant serving Caribbean dishes from many different islands. Its called The Caribbean and located in Osu! Take a right on the street before Frankie's coming <i>from the direction of the Danquah Circle</i> . It is a yellow house on the right hand side. Open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11am-3pm for lunch and 6pm-11pm for dinner! For info: 0243-437352. It is clean and they play <i>zouk!</i> Oooh la lala la la!
Had a great vacation in Ghana? Or did you travel in West Africa or another part of the Continent? Share your info with others. Let us know where you went and where you stayed. Email your great vacation to accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Thanks!	Famous Proverbs: Fire and gunpowder do not sleep together. Ghanaian	